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NEWS RELEASE

MONROE COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that a 32-year-old Long Pond resident has been indicted by a federal grand jury for receiving and distributing child pornography.

According to United States Attorney Peter J. Smith, the grand jury alleges that Jonathan Brownlee used a computer to download and distribute images of child pornography between April 2009 and December 3, 2009. Brownlee was arrested last week by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He was arraigned on the charge and ordered detained in custody pending trial.

The charge against Brownlee resulted from an investigation by the FBI, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Pocono Mountain Regional Police.

U.S. Attorney Smith noted that this case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet,

as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

U.S. Attorney Smith noted that the case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Francis P. Sempa.

An Indictment or Information is not evidence of guilt but simply a description of the charge made by the Grand Jury and/or United States Attorney against a defendant. A charged Defendant is presumed innocent until a jury returns a unanimous finding that the United States has proven the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt or until the defendant has pled guilty to the charges.